

Recommendations

Overall

- Direct the budget to address the inter-linked crises - social, biodiversity and climate - initiating a healthier, greener and just future.
- Make choices that support equity with attention to those groups most effected by current injustice. Implement anti-poverty, anti-racism and community development directives.
- Invest in the social infrastructure necessary to safeguard our futures.
- Make sure the recovery response upholds Indigenous rights and work in partnership with Indigenous peoples.
- Do not give funds to corporations, industry or ventures that perpetuate harm to people and the planet. Do not prioritize private profit over public good. See the [Green Strings Principles](#).
- Pursue a Green New Deal for Canada that leaves no one behind reflected in the synthesis from the *Pact for A Green New Deal* town halls held in 2019 and the "[M-1 Motion Green New Deal](#)."

Housing

- 1) Address homelessness and the affordable housing crisis. For example:
 - 1) buy rental stock at current low prices to create affordable options
 - 2) maintain the "Reaching Home" enhancement
- 2) Support rent freezes and prevent evictions. Use mechanisms like:
 - 1) extending the Canada Housing Benefit
 - 2) enforcing rules to protect tenants e.g. landlord obligations to maintain properties
- 3) Support deep retrofits with public funds to make them affordable and fill service gaps
 - 1) use grants and mortgage insurance, involve CMHS, chartered banks, local utilities
 - 2) centralize what building owner's need to implement and streamline the process
 - 3) increase collaborative funding programs, create clear performance benchmarks and a long-term plan (i.e. all 15 million homes as well as other buildings in Canada retrofit within 10 years)
 - 4) create skills training and good jobs in energy efficiency and retrofits that contribute to equity
- 4) Increase investment in initiatives like Passive House standards to ensure building codes are net-zero compliant by 2022

Transportation

- 5) support municipalities as they make public and active transit accessible and safe and address the climate emergency
 - 1) increase federal share of infrastructure project funding, expand public ownership with national priorities in mind for decarbonization
 - 2) ensure cities can expand initiatives like cycling infrastructure, car-free zones, high-speed rail expansion, compact communities and rapid transit priority lanes

- 3) employ community benefit clauses to help ensure benefits are fair for all
- 6) reduce barriers to the adoption of ZEV's. e.g. fund charging stations, regulate sales mandates [Some countries are choosing 2025, France has chosen 2040](#) for the last conventional vehicles
- 7) create skills training and good jobs in zero-emission transportation

Food

- 8) invest in increased food security, sustainability of domestic food systems and food sovereignty
 - 1) invest in local food hubs, cooperatives and farmers' markets, enabling smaller-scale ventures
 - 2) support agroecology, low-input production and other farming methods that support biodiversity and the climate
 - 3) defund and remove subsidies from extractive agriculture practises
 - 4) invest in programs that encourage gardens and greenhouses at public institutions
- 9) ensure that farm workers and farmers have fair wages and security enabling a more resilient and ecologically friendly food system
 - 1) revamp the risk management programs under Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) so that different farmers can have equitable safety nets
 - 2) develop programs and policies that include climate, farmer and rural prosperity, environmental sustainability, and health
 - 3) migrant rights factor strongly here as many migrants are farm workers. regulate full status for all and ensure decent work, universal services and an end to practices that create displacement
- 10) Create a regulatory system that safeguards biodiversity, air, water and Indigenous food sovereignty. Create an Indigenous Food Sovereignty Fund (see resource 1)

Social and Public Infrastructure

- 11) support municipalities so they can maintain infrastructure that builds resilience to crises such as pandemics and climate e.g. wastewater systems, public health services
- 12) increase public sector capacity, home care, assisted living, pharmacare, dental care, mental health care, post-secondary education and training that is accessible to all
 - 1) increase federal share of infrastructure project funding, expanding public ownership with national priorities in mind for care economy investments, including accessible internet for all
- 13) invest in infrastructure, along with social and health services in Indigenous communities
 - 1) do this in a way that creates "sustained resources and investments that stimulate Indigenous economies, create healthy communities, and protect the lands and waters."⁷
 - 2) end drinking water advisories - invest in and support Indigenous-led legislation and solutions

Climate/Biodiversity/Energy

- 14) Take guidance from the plans and solutions put forward in the United Nations reports on biodiversity ([Nature's Dangerous Decline](#)) and climate change ([special report on 1.5°C](#))
- 15) make public investments and use National Decarbonization Strategy to create inclusive, green communities and create quality green jobs e.g. jobs in renewable energy, decarbonization of electricity and the circular economy
 - 1) decentralize energy production and use direct public ownership as part of this approach as well as cooperatives and community-based ownership
 - 2) enable municipal district energy projects, expansion of clean electricity and zero-emission infrastructure
 - 3) continue to pursue and expand on "Indigenous ownership and equitable partnership of renewable energy projects on Indigenous homelands"⁷
- 16) shift funds away from destructive industries, including the fossil fuel industry. This includes Export Development Funds and subsidies
 - 1) withdraw support for fossil fuel development and export from trade and investment activities
 - 2) regulate a phase-out of fossil fuel use by 2040 or sooner. use methods like extraction taxes and licensing moratoria
 - 3) prioritize the end of extraction in communities that experience disproportionate harms like pollution and few if any benefits
 - 4) strengthen and speed policies that protect the environment i.e. regulate industry to reduce emissions and pay for the damages extraction creates e.g. methane regulation, cap on oil sands, industrial output pricing, environmental assessments that include assessments of downstream emissions
 - 5) invest in clean and green R & D, including green hydrogen
- 17) invest in nature-based climate solutions including restoration and natural infrastructure as well as eco-system resilience and regeneration. The [Indigenous Land Guardians](#) and Indigenous protected areas are key
- 18) Make Canada's fair contribution to International Climate Finance a priority, 6.76 Billion between 2021-2025.¹ Wealthy countries should phase down production quickly and shift funds to countries who are less wealthy and have benefited less from climate-damaging extractive practises
- 19) ensure international trade serves the greater good by removing investor-state dispute settlement clauses and pursuing a "peace clause" that leaves countries free to facilitate climate goals¹

Care Economy/Worker's Rights

- 20) expand on the Just Transition Act by funding training in green jobs. Use community benefit agreements and equity assessments, make effective investments in low-emission sectors, employ social protections for workers and help diversify local economies. Make sure [no one is left behind](#)
- 21) uphold and expand worker's rights, including unions, collective bargaining, safety and health standards, local living wages, scheduling fairness, EI and social benefit protections

22) ensure the response values and protects low-carbon workers and addresses inequalities manifested through the gender gap, ableism, racism and ageism. Increase gender-justice. Pursue pay equity. Address low-wage, unwaged and precarious work, increasing access to social assistance

- 1) make sure long-term care homes and home care are safe and that care workers are fairly compensated and have full, adequate worker's rights. -make these services public and non-profit, increasing the potential for good care
- 2) strengthen workers protections and increase wages for those who work in low-wage, low-carbon jobs, in care and service industries in general
- 3) invest in child care and early childhood education, increase compensation for care-workers while ensuring safety and affordability
- 4) maintain and increase supports for women who experience violence. Fulfill the calls for justice in "Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls"
- 5) increase the range and amount of income support and other social supports for people living with disabilities e.g. flexible work at home hours, less penalization for working when on income support
- 6) consider a form of UBI. Keep it above the Low-Income Measure and ensure continued strong social protections and health care
- 7) support the essential work of non-profits and charities, including frontline service supply and social policy advocacy. Enable stable wages, benefits and pensions

Revenue Sources

1. Pursue fair taxation of the wealthy and corporations (incl. end off-shore tax havens, implement wealth taxes etc.) and shift funds to address inequality and further the common good
2. Hold the corporations that have profited most from and are most responsible for past and ongoing environmental and social damage accountable
3. Use the fact that Canada creates its own currency to create a stronger social safety net, economic growth and good jobs. Coupled with low interest rates, the debt can actually be paid back as our economy recovers
4. Explore other innovative financing options (ie. public bank, green bonds, interest-free public bank loans)
5. Use Crown Corporations if necessary, to ensure that fossil fuels are rapidly wound down and renewables and the care economy scaled up
6. Begin programs to defund the police and military and shift the money in ways that can keep people safe (i.e. to community-led organizations that address mental health and poverty)
7. Pursue the idea of a wellbeing budget and other ways to value the health and wellbeing of people and the planet.
8. Shift away from public-private funding models to federally funding community infrastructure directly

The decisions made during our recovery from COVID-19 must prioritize our communities and ecosystems. They must help ensure that we can all live healthy, safe lives. Austerity would be a costly and regressive choice, one that would further burden those already facing the greatest income and social stressors, further weaken our communities and negatively impact future resilience. On the other hand, investment in social infrastructure and deep societal change can lead to an economy of care and safeguard our futures.

To accomplish this better future, **we need to shift our energy systems and fuel use away from fossil fuels.** Luckily, as the report “Build Back Better” by Corporate Knights states, 5 million quality jobs can be created as we green the power grid, electrify transport and conduct retrofits and we could save \$39 billion in fuel costs.

We need to create, value and protect low carbon jobs and workers. We need to redistribute wealth and resources equitably. Systemic inequity and oppression threatens peoples’ health and wellbeing. It weakens our communities and the societal structures we depend on. The vulnerabilities it creates compound during crises such as the pandemic and the climate emergency. It is essential to make investments and decisions that support equity and anti-racism with attention to those groups most effected, including women, migrant, Indigenous and racialized people. All of these changes will move us away from practises and systems that make an unsafe, threatening world.

Acting now to protect people and planet will save both money and lives. It will help ensure our communities can better withstand the coming threats and work more effectively to counter and contain them. Everything from getting groceries to staying well is related to the direction our economic recovery takes. Our children’s education, our green spaces, our old age — all of these depend on the decisions made now, and whether they prompt and sustain positive change.

I ask again that you use COVID-19 recovery plans to address the inter-linked crises highlighted by the pandemic - social, biodiversity and climate - and direct the budget toward the deep shifts required to build back better, initiating a healthier, greener and just future.

Sincerely,
Colleen Lynch

Main Resources Pulled From

1. The “[Alternative Federal Budget 2020 Recovery Plan](#)” by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
2. Corporate Knights, [Building Back Better with a Green Renovation Wave](#)
3. [Equity, Climate Justice and Fossil Fuel Extraction Principles for a Managed Phase-Out](#), priceofoil.org
4. Julia Langer, [Toronto Atmospheric Fund](#), “[Investing in retrofits is no longer an “if” – here’s the “how”](#),” April 23, 2020
5. Guy Dauncey’s “[26 weeks of Federal Climate Action](#)”
6. justrecoveryforall.ca